

A mother called her child  
 Kissing his forehead  
 On his way to school.  
 For the boy  
 It was a normal day  
 Until the darkness came  
 And swept the light away.  
 We did not ask for this.  
 We did not ask to hear gunshots  
 In slamming doors and dropping books.  
 We did not ask  
 To witness the murders  
 Of the children  
 We played with at recess.  
 We did not know  
 That our teacher  
 Had taught us our final lesson.  
 And we believed her  
 When she said  
 The red spilling from her foot  
 Was only paint.  
 Sweet ignorance  
 The honey in our poisoned tea  
 The salt we mistook for sugar.  
 But where do we draw the line?  
 Between knowledge and ignorance  
 When do we know to cover our eyes  
 When the darkness  
 Begins to swallow us whole.  
 We united this country  
 By stating  
 "We are one."  
 And on that principle  
 Our Forefathers said  
 You may "bear arms" to fight against them.  
 You may defend  
 Against them.

□ 1215

But who is this "them"?  
 If we are one  
 Who are we fighting against?  
 If we are one  
 Then who are we defending?  
 If we are taking lives to begin with  
 Because killing is still killing.  
 The number of lives lost  
 Is no victory  
 On our own soil  
 Or on any soil.  
 We say we are equals.  
 So who gets the power  
 To decide  
 Who lives and who dies?  
 Because by giving open access to these weapons  
 We are giving power  
 To trembling hands.  
 And these hands  
 Were the ones to take the life of the little boy  
 The day he was learning  
 How to read.  
 These machines were not designed for play.  
 They were designed to kill.  
 If we use them on the battlefield  
 If they can take a life  
 Then they are not worth it.  
 Because I promise you  
 A life is worth more  
 Than any machine  
 Used for fun.  
 Yet we bear these weapons.  
 We claim that we enjoy  
 The crack  
 At the end of the rifle.  
 Yeah, it may seem fun  
 On the other side.  
 But what if  
 You are on the opposite end?  
 Begging  
 Pleading  
 Crying out  
 For your life.  
 For the lives of your friends  
 For the lives of your classmates  
 For the life of your teacher.

We must be sure  
 Whose fingers we can trust  
 On the trigger  
 Because that choice  
 May determine  
 Your life  
 The lives of your friends  
 The lives of your family  
 And the lives of those you love.

Mr. Speaker, this is the voice of a child who has witnessed murder. How have we allowed this to become normal in America?

Geneva's poem is beautiful, and she never should have had to write it. But this is the world that we live in: a world where NRA dollars drive decisions, sales for bulletproof backpacks are soaring, and 14-year-olds have seen their teachers and their friends die at school.

We must ban assault weapons. They have no place in our society. And we must ban high-capacity magazines. We need to hold gun manufacturers accountable for crimes committed with their guns and end the de facto ban on gun research. These are commonsense reforms.

As Marjory Stoneman Douglas student Emma Gonzalez said so pointedly: "We are going to be the kids you read about in textbooks, not because we are going to be another statistic about mass shooting in America, but because . . . we are going to be the last mass shooting."

I pray that she is right. But it is Congress that needs to provide more than thoughts and prayers for a change. We must take action. That is our moral responsibility.

#### TARIFFS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, the year 1776 marked a turning point not only in American history, but in human history. While brave patriots here in America were affirming their right to equal representation and, ultimately, revolution, a Scottish philosopher named Adam Smith was revolutionizing the way we think about economics.

"The Wealth of Nations" was the book he wrote where he extolled the virtues of free markets and free trade, showing how all benefit from robust competition and an open marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, because of tax cuts and regulatory reform, returning to freer markets in this country, we have this economy off high center and growing at a rate we haven't seen in over a decade. While some of my friends across the aisle would like to dispute this, the results speak for themselves.

Just last month our economy added over 300,000 new jobs and over 800,000 people joined the labor force, the largest 1-month jump in over 30 years. Mr. Speaker, people are looking for work, and they are finding work.

With the stock market, business, consumer confidence, and the labor

participation rate at all-time highs and the unemployment at a 50-year low, the last thing that we need and want to do is impose a new kind of government intervention to diminish the great economic progress we have made.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that these tariffs that the White House and others have talked about, if not appropriately targeted, could do this and could have unintended, negative consequences on the American economy, on American consumers, and on hard-working American families.

The Texas delegation has a unique stake in this issue. For 16 consecutive years, Texas has been the top exporting State in the country with over \$264 billion in exports for 2017. So trade policy has a significant impact on our constituents. That is why last week my colleagues and I sent a letter authored by Ways and Means Chairman KEVIN BRADY to the President urging him to take a more measured and surgical approach in imposing tariffs. And I am glad it looks like that the White House and the President have heard and have heeded our pleas.

I believe in free trade, Mr. Speaker. I believe in open global markets. And it has improved standard of living for everyone. However, free trade only works if everybody plays by the same rules; that is, free trade and fair trade go hand in hand. For years, China has been gaming the system by dumping their product, infringing on our intellectual property rights, manipulating their currency, and circumventing trade agreements for years.

President Trump was right to call them out. He was right to hold them accountable. I am confident that we can work with the White House so that tariffs ensure fair competition and protect our national security interests while also making sure we don't harm consumers here at home.

#### HONORING THE TOP 10 FEMALE HIP-HOP COLLABORATIONS OF ALL TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, throughout the years, artists such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, and Bruce Springsteen have been recognized on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Today I rise to honor the top 10 female MC hip-hop collaborations of all time.

Number 10: Eve, "My Chick Bad remix."

Number 9: Monie Love, "My Buddy."

Number 8: Missy Elliott, "Hot Boyz remix."

Number 7: Remy Ma, "Ante Up remix."

Number 6: Lauryn Hill, "Ready or Not."

Number 5: Nicki Minaj, "Up All Night."

Number 4: Da Brat, "Da B Side."

Number 3: Lady of Rage, "G Funk Intro."

Number 2: Fox Boogie Brown, "Ain't No."

Number 1: Representing BK to the fullest, Lil' Kim, "Quiet Storm remix."

These extraordinary MCs, along with legendary pioneers such as Queen Latifah, MC Lyte, and Salt-N-Pepa, shattered hip-hop's glass ceiling with their skill, talent, and lyrical ability.

As we celebrate Women's History Month here in the United States Congress, these dynamic women are worthy to be praised.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of the week, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this House to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your Spirit in the decisions they make. May their faith in You deliver them from any tensions that might tear the people's House apart and from worries that might wear them out.

All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### HONORING GIRL SCOUTS ON ITS 106TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scouts of the USA as it celebrates its 106th birthday.

I know firsthand the positive impact that Scouting can have on the life of a young person. I have been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America my whole life.

On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the first Girl Scout troop with just 18 girls. Over a century later, more than 50 million American women are Girl Scout alums, and the Girl Scout program reaches 2.6 million members.

Girl Scouts helps girls lead in their own lives and communities. It also positions them to become tomorrow's leaders in our country and the world by encouraging them to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals. Girl Scouts is committed to ensuring all girls develop to their full potential.

This week, as we celebrate Girl Scouts' 106th birthday, I applaud the Girl Scout councils that serve girls in my community for building evermore girls of courage, confidence, and character.

#### HONORING INDIANA STATE SENATOR DAVID LONG

(Mr. BANKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the 2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly will draw to a close, and with it, so will the career of one of the Hoosier State's most distinguished legislators.

Senate President Pro Tempore Senator David Long recently announced that, after 22 years of public service, he will retire later this year. Under his transformational leadership, our State enacted sweeping education reforms, balanced the budget, delivered historic tax cuts, advanced the cause of life, and passed right-to-work legislation.

Senator Long played a pivotal role in our State's progress over the last decade and a half, and his impact in Indiana will be felt for generations to come.

My wife, Amanda, and I both had the honor of serving with David in the State Senate, and we are proud to call him a mentor and friend. During my time at the statehouse, I learned so much from Senator Long; and in my work here in the Congress, I am con-

stantly reminded of lessons I learned from him when we served together.

Hoosiers deeply appreciate Senator Long's incredible record of accomplishment during his time in office. I wish him; his wife, Melissa; and his family the very best in the years to come.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 9, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 9, 2018, at 9:47 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 1177.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE JODY B. HICE OF GEORGIA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Timothy Reitz, Legislative Director, the Honorable JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 13, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony in a criminal trial issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY REITZ,  
*Legislative Director.*

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1644

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 4 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.